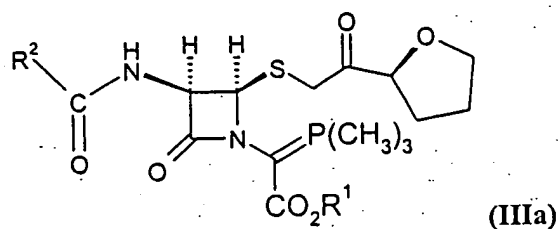


wherein R¹ is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl; and X is halo;

comprising the steps of:

- a) cyclizing a trimethylphosphinic compound of formula (IIIa)



wherein

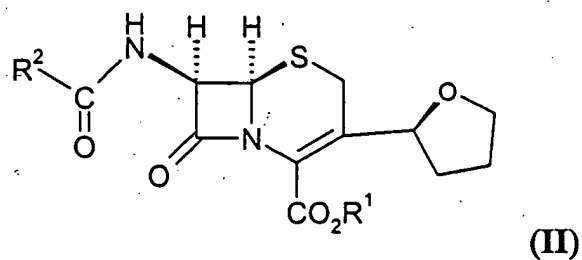
R¹ is para-nitrobenzyl or allyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₆₋₁₀ aryl C₁₋₆ alkyl

and dithianyl;

in a solvent;

to form a compound of formula (II)



wherein